



Office *of the* Inspector General

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

## **DON'T BE AFRAID. SPEAK UP.**



### **WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER?**

A “whistleblower” discloses information he/she reasonably believes evidences any of the following: A violation of any law, rule, or regulation—Gross mismanagement—Gross waste of funds—Abuse of authority—A substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

### **WHAT IS WHISTLEBLOWER RETALIATION?**

A federal employee authorized to take, or direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action may not take, fail to take, or threaten to take any personnel action against an employee because of protected whistleblowing. You may file a protected disclosure and/or file a whistleblower retaliation complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC). Forms may be filed online or downloaded from OSC’s website at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) or you may contact OSC at: U.S. Office of Special Counsel 1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036; Retaliation Information: 1-800-872-9855, Whistleblower Disclosure Hotline: 1-800-572-2249.

### **WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION OMBUDSMAN?**

We educate employees about the rights and remedies available to them under the laws prohibiting whistleblower retaliation.

### **HOW DO I CONTACT THE OMBUDSMAN?**

Email us at [whistleblower.ombudsman@ssa.gov](mailto:whistleblower.ombudsman@ssa.gov)

Or visit our website at

<http://oig.ssa.gov/whistleblower-protection>